

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 56

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Roane Choral Society on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is our privilege to recognize those community groups whose artistic endeavors bring joy to and enhance the well-being of the citizens of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Roane Choral Society is one such entity, which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year, marking half a century of bringing professional performances of classical choral music to grateful audiences in East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Roane Choral Society's initial organizational meeting was held in February 1973, an effort led by Dr. Don King, a local physician who wanted to form a community choir for those interested in classical choral music; and

WHEREAS, the group was chartered by the State of Tennessee and declared a 501(c)(3) organization on October 25, 1973; the nascent society's three primary goals were to promote better communication among the musicians of the county; to provide the community with classical choral music, whether of a sacred or secular nature; and to provide a group that could perform more difficult music than could be accomplished by other choruses; and

WHEREAS, Roane Choral Society's first concert, Handel's *Messiah*, was performed on April 20, 1973, and featured sixty-four singers accompanied by twenty-four orchestral musicians; and

WHEREAS, over the subsequent fifty years, Roane Choral Society has continued to sustain its organization while providing a cultural and artistic impact on Roane and surrounding counties; in the coming years, the society intends to expand into Loudon and Anderson counties, providing the same quality concert experiences; and

WHEREAS, Roane Choral Society has developed into a musical organization that produces three major concerts annually, thanks to the help of various granting agencies, chief among them the Tennessee Arts Commission, which has provided over half of the more than \$200,000 in total grants awarded to the chorus throughout its existence; and

WHEREAS, the support of the Tennessee Arts Commission and similar organizations, as well as the generous contributions of local residents and businesses, has made it possible for the Roane Choral Society to continually produce high-quality cultural arts programs in a rural setting; and

WHEREAS, currently under the direction of Brenda Luggie, Roane Choral Society was one of a very small group of arts organizations that continuously rehearsed and performed throughout the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the organization strives to expand its musical horizons by including music from underrepresented composers and original commissioned songs by local musicians in its repertoire; and

WHEREAS, Roane Choral Society further promotes the arts throughout the community through collaborations with other choruses, dramatists, and visual artists; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that we recognize the continuing legacy of this phenomenal group on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the Roane Choral Society on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary, extending our best wishes for the group's continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to

the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.